(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, a comprehensive notification GSR No.664 (E) on nutritional labeling has been published by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 19.9.2008, which will become effective from the 19th of March, 2009.

Audit of medical equipments

621. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether medical equipments, including those installed in operation theatres, testing labs, life support systems, etc. at Central Government Hospitals like AIIMS, New Delhi, PGI, Chandigarh and others, are subject to audit at regular intervals;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the audit parameters;

(c) the details of audit of equipments last carried out showing operational deficiencies etc., wherever detected during the exercise, hospital-wise;

(d) whether steps have been taken in response thereto;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) At AIIMS, the audit of account including all the areas namely stores, procurement, administrative matters, pay & allowances, etc., is carried out yearly by Statutory Auditor *i.e.* Director General of Audit Central Revenue, New Delhi and compliances of audit objection are made promptly and regularly. However audit of medical equipments as such is not carried out separately. All the equipments are under annual maintenance contract and any malfunctioning, if detected, is rectified by the supplier/maintenance agent promptly.

Similarly, audit of the PGIMER, Chandigarh is carried out by Principal Accountant General's Office, UT Chandigarh, which also covers the medical equipments component. There is no specific Audit observation made by the Audit regarding operational deficiencies of equipments in the Institute.

In so far as Central Government Hospitals like Safdarjang Hospital, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi are concerned, the medical equipments are not subjected to Audit at regular intervals. However all equipments installed in operation theatres, testing labs, life support systems, etc. are put on Annual Maintenance Contract and are regularly got inspected. As and when any operational deficiency is found the same is rectified promptly.

Calibration of hospital equipments

622. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the mechanical, electrical and electronic equipments installed in hospitals, including those in operation theaters and laboratories, etc., are needed to be mandatorily calibrated at prescribed frequencies for their proper functioning;

(b) if so, the salient details thereof, indicating the details of authorities entrusted with the task of monitoring the frequencies and quality of calibration and certifications thereof;

(c) the penalty prescribed, if any, for ingnoring the need of calibration; and

(d) the instances of detection of failure of functioning of hospital equipments due to their not-calibrating and penalty imposed, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) All the costly equipments installed in various operation theatres and laboratories of hospitals are maintained through Open Tender by placing them under Annual Maintenance Contact (AMC). Calibration and certification is done by the concerned authorized agent as and when required. When the machine is out of order proportionate deduction is made from Annual Maintenance Contract. No complaints have been received from the user departments regarding maintenance of the machines as such.

Infants death due to incubator fire

†623.SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the incidents that took place in a hospital in Patiala in which five infants died and another five were badly charred due to the fire caught in the incubator; and

(b) if so, the steps to be taken by the Union Government in order to prevent the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As reported by the Government of Punjab, a fire broke out on 31.1.2009 at about 4.30 A.M. in the Nursery of Gynaecology Ward of Rajindra Hospital, Patiala. Five new born babies kept in the Phototherapy Unit died and five babies were rescued. In this connection a judicial inquiry has been instituted.

However, in so far as Central Government hospitals in Delhi namely Safdarjung, Dr. RML Hospital and Lady Harding Medical College & Associated hospitals are concerned, no such incident has happened. Safety measures such as replacement of old equipments especially open care warmers and incubators with new ones are undertaken as and when required. Periodic inspections are carried out by the Engineers of the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) in Nurseries of these hospitals to check short circuits. Smoke detection and fire extinguishers are also kept in working conditions to meet any untoward such incidents.

Financial aid to NGOs in Maharashtra

624. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT:
Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.